

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/705,884
Response to Office Action dated November 3, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 39 and 43-53 are pending in this application. Claims 1-38 and 40-42 have been canceled. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has objected to claim 40 for being a duplicate of claim 39. Accordingly, claim 40 has been canceled.

Claims 39, 40, 43-46 and 51-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Soeno et al. (previously applied) in view of Bonin (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted in Applicants' previous response dated August 24, 2005, Soeno et al. discloses an actuator with a pair of movable arms for catching a head slider with adhesive.

Soeno et al. fails to disclose at least the following two features of the manufacturing process of the instant application, namely, (1) a spacing between the movable arms being slightly less than a width of the head slider; and (2) a catching step that includes provisionally fixing the head slider between the movable arms by a pinching force of the movable arms, and then securely fixing the head slider to the movable arms by curing an adhesive after the provisional fixing.

The Examiner has urged:

...fixing sections are coupled opposite sides of the slider for holding or supporting to form the actuator assembly as shown in Fig. 12. Therefore, it would be obvious that the width of the arms could be smaller than the width of the slider in order to hold or support the slider. In addition to that while the arms hold or support the slider by the fixing sections of the arms, a force or pinching force should be applied to the slider to hold or support the slider.

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Applicants respectfully disagree. FIG. 12 of Soeno et al. clearly shows a space between arms 41 and head slider 2. Column 17, lines 3-5 disclose that movable parts 44 arranged at ends of arms 41 are coupled to the slider 2 by bonding.

This passage does not teach, mention or suggest any pinching force is provided, as is recited in the claimed invention. The space between arms 41 and head slider 2, in fact, teaches away from such a pinching force.

Bonin has been cited for teaching an actuation system having an actuator (40) and a slider (24) and fixing between the actuator and the slider with an adhesive such as epoxy in order to fix the slider to the actuator as shown in FIG. 4. Thus, because Soeno et al. utilizes bonding to attach the slider to the arms, there would be no motivation to utilize Bonin to teach the use of an adhesive to provide this feature.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 47-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Soeno et al. in view of Bonin and further in view of Fukushima et al. (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Fukushima et al. discloses a sintered ceramic composite comprising 35 to 80 wt. % of aluminum nitride, 2 to 60 wt. % of boron nitride, 0.1 to 25 wt. % of an oxide of magnesium, 0.5 to 20 wt. % of at least one of rare earth oxides including yttrium oxide as an optional component and 25 wt. % or less of aluminum oxide as an optional component.

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Fukushima et al., like the other cited references, fails to teach the limitations recited in claim 39, as amended, from which these claims depend.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 39 and 43-53 are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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